

Application No.: 10/762,070

Docket No.: JCLA12713-R

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit that applicant's admitted prior art (hereafter PA) in view of Nyseth et al. (U.S. 6,010,008; hereafter Nyseth) and further in view of Baseman et al. (U.S. 5,346,518; hereafter Baseman) and Dickinson et al. (U.S. 2003/0232512 A1; hereafter Dickinson) is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claims 1-7 and 9-17 unpatentable because the reference or references, taken alone or combined, fails to teach or suggest each and every element recited in the claims. The Applicants have amended claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 10, 12 and 16 and cancelled claims 9 and 11 to improve clarity. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-7, 10 and 12-17 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

The Applicant's invention is directed to a SMIF box for holding a reticle and a reticle loading system. The SMIF box has a box cover, a base pedestal and an **ammonium sulfate crystal blocking means for preventing the surface of the reticle from being covered by the ammonium sulfate crystals**. The ammonium sulfate crystal blocking means comprises an O-ring between the base pedestal and the box cover and a drying agent in the inner surface of the box cover. Furthermore, as for the reticle loading system, other than the SMIF box, there is a SMIF box loader for loading a reticle from the SMIF box. The SMIF box loader comprises a gas inlet and a gas outlet on the body of the SMIF box loader so that the reticle can be free from contaminated by the formation of the ammonium sulfate crystals.

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However, PA fails to teach or suggest using an ammonium sulfate crystal blocking means including an O-ring and a drying agent in the inner surface of the box cover. Furthermore, even though Nyseth discloses an idea of using O-ring and Baseman mentions the use of the absorber layer 32, both Nyseth and Baseman fail to suggest that the O-ring together with the absorber layer can be installed at the inner surface of the box cover as an ammonium sulfate crystal blocking means for the reticle.

In response to the argument, in the previous Final Office Action mailed on July 26th, 2005, that Nyseth and Dickinson are analogous since both Nyseth and Dickinson are in the applicants' field of endeavor, Applicants respectfully submit that the situation for holding the wafers is different from the situation for storing a reticle. **In the present invention, it is clearly that the ammonium sulfate crystal blocking means including an O-ring and a drying agent and the inert gas inlet and an air outlet on the hermetic body of the SMIF box loader are particularly designed for preventing the reticle from being damaged by the formation of the ammonium sulfate crystals.** However, none of Nyseth and Dickinson mentions that the wafer storage also suffer from the contamination of the formation of the ammonium sulfate crystals on the surface of the wafers.

"The prior art references in combination do not suggest the invention as a whole claimed in thepatent. Absent such a suggestion to combine the references, respondents can do no more than piece the invention together using the patented invention as a template." *Texas Instruments Inc. v. U.S. Int'l Trade Comm'n*, 988 F.2d 1165, 26USPQ2d 1018 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Apparently, the combination of PA with Nyseth, Dickinson or Baseman is nothing but hindsight.

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Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that PA in view of Nyseth, Dickinson or Baseman fails to render claims 1, 7 and 16 unpatentable. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectively requested.

Claims 2-6, 10, 12-15 and 17, which depend from claims 1, 7 and 16, are also patentable over the combination of PA and Nyseth, Dickinson or Baseman, at least because of their dependency from an allowable base claim.

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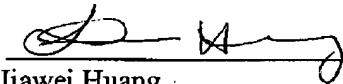
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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1-7, 10 and 12-17 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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